

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 7:26p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene W. Grant, Councilmember Charl Jones, Councilmember Hope Love, Councilmember Lamar Maxwell, Councilmember Shireka McCarthy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gloria L. Sistrunk, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: C. Reginald Bagley, Acting Director of Economic Development, Domonique Brown, Director of Public Works, Monay Henry, Administrative Assistant, Marcus Jones, Assistant to the Chief, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Sharron Lipford, Director of Public Engagement, Devan Martin, Chief of Police, Diamond Plater, Council Clerk, Jazmin Shorts, Administrative Assistant, Chantell Tyler, Accounting Assistant, Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Pastor Taylor

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Public Session Agenda. The motion carried, and the agenda was unanimously approved by the Council.

1.1.5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting minutes for Monday, January 7, 2019. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the Regular Work Session Meeting minutes for Monday, March 11, 2019. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Maxwell to approve the Public Session Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 11, 2019. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve the Confirmation Hearing Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 18, 2019. The motion was carried, and the meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the City Council.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Steven Franco-Discount Mart, 401 Eastern Ave, Seat Pleasant, MD stated that the City voted to increase the businesses taxes, which was \$58,000 for that year. The City had rescinded the tax increase due to his suit. He feels that he and four other business owners was signaled out with the tax increase. He stated that the personal property tax rate is \$15.00 per \$100.00 and it is not a large tax anywhere in the State of Maryland, which consist of inventory. The surrounding areas are less than \$1.00. He has had conversation with people on the County and State level and they feel this is outrageous. Planet Fitness has received a tax bill of \$122,000 for the year for personal property. He stated that he learned about one and half years ago and this tax is illegal. If the City Council pass the \$15.00 personal property tax, he and his friends will be taking legal actions. He has worked with the city and met with the Economic Development Department and they have not worked with him regarding his concerns.
- Glen Norris and Justin Drummond, Addison Plaza, Planet Fitness, Seat Pleasant, MD stated that they opened in the City of Seat Pleasant in July 2017. We are leasing the space and had to have it renovated. We have three other clubs in Prince George's County, and he expected to get a tax bill in about the \$5,000 tax range. He stated that

the tax bill from the City was \$122,000 and they pay the County and the Town for taxes. He wanted to know what can be done as a maximum tax rate.

- Mayor Grant stated that any documents to be provided to the City Council should be provided to the City Clerk as part of the official record.
- Aretha Stepheson-604 64th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD wanted to know if the City Council had passed an Ordinance to increase the tax rate and would like to know who voted on the passages. She stated that she has flooding in Ward II and residents are suffering due to the flooding in the basement. She stated that she hopes the City can obtain a grant to assist the residents. She stated that some residents are putting in drainage themselves and she has a problem with it, as it may not be in accordance to code. One resident was told to have it completed in several days, and they are doing the most economical way possible. When she was on the Council and residents had complained about the same issues in the past. She wanted to know the status of the grant for trashcans, as it would be helpful if we could have a unified look.
- Bertha Proctor-6014 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that she lives on Addison Rd and she has received tickets without any warnings. They were instructed to move their vehicles within 72 hours. She stated that she has tags and do not understand why she had to move her car.
- Katrina Robinson-6210 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD stated that she wanted to thanked Ms. Hope Love for extending the Prayer Breakfast to all residents. The Prayer Breakfast was very up-lifting and she had a great time. If you did not attend the Prayer Breakfast, you missed a good event. There is a concern regarding Rental Properties that are Air BNB. She had a question regarding the parking signs on Avon and wanted to know if the residents need a permit to park on Avon Street?

3. PRESENTATIONS:

3.1. National League of Cities Youth Delegate

- Councilmember McCarthy stated that she is trying to have a Youth Council established in the City of Seat Pleasant. She had the privilege of taking Micah Bilbro, a Seat Pleasant Youth to the Congressional City Conference held in Washington, DC last month.

- Micah Bilbro stated that the conference was a great experience and he honored to be the first youth delegate to attend from the City of Seat Pleasant. He learned that many challenges we suffer in our city are very similar in other cities. He attended a workshop in Infrastructure that addressed the concerns of potholes and water issues within the community. He believes the solution will be addressed with his generation the youth. He had the pleasure of meeting other Mayors and Councilmembers from other states. He thanked the City of Seat Pleasant for selecting as the youth delegate for Seat Pleasant.
- Council President Yeargin thanked Mr. Bilbro for attending the conference.
- Mayor Grant stated that we heard from businesses tonight and the City of Seat Pleasant provides fitness cards to the employees and he had the privilege to go into Planet Fitness.
- Mayor Grant stated it is another business present and he wanted to state that Domino's pizza. He visited the location in Seat Pleasant and the renovation of the location looks great and the employee that serviced him was very professional and apologetic for the mistake.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will be visiting Domino's Pizza again and Planet Fitness is very clean and has used the showers in the location. The Mayor of Capitol Heights visit Planet Fitness as well.

4. LEGISLATION

4.1. Ordinance O-19-11 Amendment of Chapter 150-Vehicles and Traffic was introduced by the City Council and read by the City Clerk on Monday, April 1, 2019. The second reading was held on Monday, April 8, 2019. It was motioned by Councilmember Maxwell and seconded by Councilmember Love to approve Ordinance O-19-11. The motion carried and was unanimously approved by the City Council.

4

5. REPORTS:

5.1. Council President Report

- Council President Yeargin stated that his report can be found on Board Docs for February.

5.2. Mayor Eugene W. Grant

- Mayor Grant stated that we heard from businesses tonight and the City of Seat Pleasant provides fitness cards to the employees and he had the privilege to go into Planet Fitness.
- Mayor Grant stated it is another business present and he wanted to state that Domino's pizza. He visited the location in Seat Pleasant and the renovation of the location looks great and the employee that serviced him was very professional and apologetic for the mistake. The employee represented the store extremely well and he had intended to write a letter to the corporate office regarding the pleasant experience.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will be visiting Domino's Pizza again and Planet Fitness is very clean and has used the showers in the location. The Mayor of Capitol Heights visit Planet Fitness as well.
- Mayor Grant stated that we have some laws that will be forthcoming, and we have decided to transform this city. Our decisions are based upon the laws.
- Mayor Grant stated that he makes no apology for his love and zeal for the City. We will continue to make changes. We have five million dollars invested on Martin Luther King, Jr., Hwy. We had purchased the gaskin properties and it will be demolished.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are willing to meet with anyone that approaches this government with respect. We will not tolerate disrespect of our city. The City is going through a transformation. Change is not easily accepted, but it is necessary.
- Mayor Grant stated that Councilmember Sistrunk father served on the City Council and she now holds the same seat that he held.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is time for the residents to see a return on their investment.
- Mayor Grant stated that investment dollars are coming to Seat Pleasant. He has secured 2.1 Million Dollars to invest along MLK Hwy.
- The City response rate to the citizens has improved by 93% due to the My Seat Pleasant app.
- Mayor Grant stated that he held a press conference today with the County Executive regarding the new grocery store coming to Seat Pleasant.
- Mayor Grant stated that we are creating a tax incentive program for long term residents.

- Mayor Grant stated that if someone does not like Seat Pleasant or what we do, there is no law that requires you to stay.

5.3. Chief Operating Officer Report-Jeannelle Wallace, Chief Operating Officer Report

- Mrs. Wallace greeted the Mayor, Council, citizens and staff.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Police Department hosted an in-house Emergency Vehicle Operators Course for the personnel in February. The department met with vendor that provides the body worn cameras and in car camera.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the City Clerk was awarded City Clerk of Year for the State of Maryland. We have 157 Municipalities in the State of Maryland. This is a phenomenal feat. Mrs. Lanham was elected to serve on the Maryland Municipal Clerk Association Board as the Vice President.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that if you come to City Hall anytime after 5:00p.m., you will find employees still working although our hours of operation are from 9:00am-5:00pm. Many of us are working from home with our iPads after hours. The Chief of Police has responded and returned to the City as last as 2:00am and submit a written report to the Mayor and Council.
- Mrs. Wallace stated we have increased property tax lien from \$18,000 last year to \$60,000 as of today, which is 70% increase. These are liens that are on vacant properties of owners who do not reside in the city. We are ridden the city of vacant and blighted properties.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the Economic Development Department and the NCC are working and citing properties owners. We are going to court and are receiving judication.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that the entire Prince George's County is sitting on springs and sometimes those springs break. We partner and work with Department of Environmental Resources. They can assist with putting in in-lets in people yards, but this may not always happen, as they service the county.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we have the My Seat Pleasant App to allow residents to upload their concerns oppose to waiting until the meetings are held. We can cite them, as they are required to have a County and City license to do the work.

- Mrs. Stephenson stated that she would like to receive the information on the resources that are offered.
- Mrs. Wallace stated that we work with the mosquito patrol program, WSSC and Environmental Resources.
- Councilmember Sistrunk stated that it is two houses on 69th Street that has sump pumps in them and they are pumping out water 24 hours a day 7 days week. The water issue is a city wide and county wide issue.
- Councilmember McCarthy inquired if the City had received the HUR funding this year.
- Councilmember Jones stated that she has group tickets to attend the African American Museum. She has nine tickets remaining and the bus will be transporting the residents. Please contact Council Clerk, Diamond Plater if you are interested in attending.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINSS

6.1. None

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. None

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1. FY2019-2020 Budget Hearing, Saturday, April 13, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD from 10:00am-11:30am

8.2. FY2019-2020 Budget Review, Saturday, April 13, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, 311 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD from 12:00pm-5:00pm

8.3 Ward V Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 15, 2019, Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 9:30am-11:30am

8.4. Ward I Appreciation Day, Saturday, April 20, 2019, Mount Victory Baptist Church, 6020 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD from 12:00pm-5:00pm

8.5. Annual Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 4, 2019, Parade from Goodwin Park at 11:00am, Activities at Seat Pleasant Elementary School from 12:00pm-6:00pm

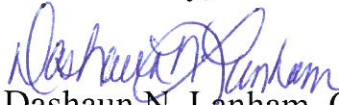
8.6. Regular Work Session, Monday, May 6, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 6:00pm

8.7. Public Session, Monday, May 13, 2019, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00pm

9. ADJOURN-

The Public Session meeting adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham, CMC
City Clerk